



SRI SARVESHWARI SAMOOH, USA
SonoMa Ashram

News from Bal Ashram

Varanasi, 12 March 2009

Dear Friends,

Three months have passed so quickly, and in a few days it will be time to start the journey back to California. Here are some more pictures just to keep you in touch. It's all possible through the generosity of so many friends of the Ashram.

On March 4th, we celebrated Bal Ashram's 9th anniversary. The festivities began with an early morning ceremony in the temple, and continued until after dark. The Ashram was full of friends of all ages throughout the day.



Above: early morning ceremony (*puja*) in the temple.

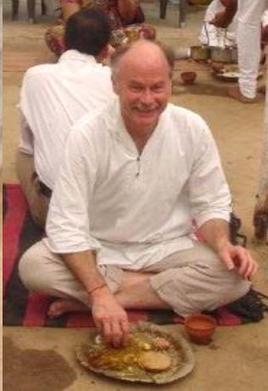
Right: Flag Ceremony - each year, we hoist a flag, tied up with flower petals, to the top of the pole, and one person is chosen to pull on the string to open the flag. This year, Babaji chose little Vidya to shower us with petals.



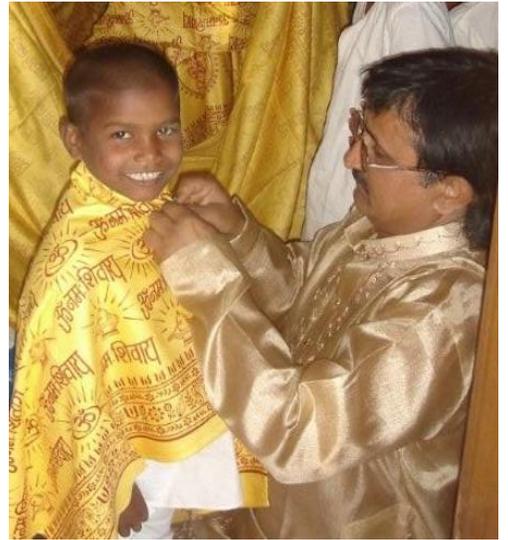
Above: Vijay and Santosh in their fancy clothes.



Breakfast, lunch and dinner were served to all the guests in shifts. Over 600 people came through the Ashram gates on this day.



Below: Tiwariji (our music teacher), getting Bharat ready for his performance.



Above: Peter from Sonoma, Ca., and Stephanie from Boston, Ma.

Throughout the day, all the children sang songs, danced and performed short theatrical acts. The day concluded with Babaji's inspirational talk.



Here is Mark from Sonoma, Ca., with his video camera. He arrived the day before this event, and is still here capturing the life and activities for a future video we'll start working on after returning to California.

Much progress is being made on the new classrooms for Anjali School. Here is the most recent photo. One day, the Anjali School children got inspired to help out.



... and here is Vidya, once again lending a hand with Seema.

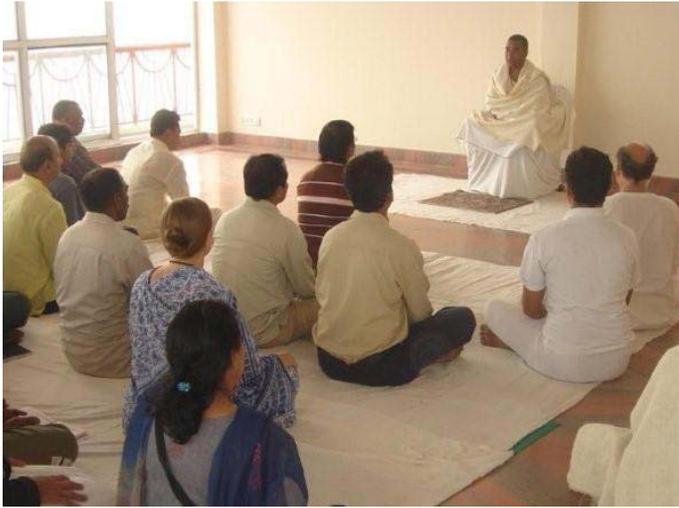
The children love to bathe in Holy River Ganges.



Amit coming up the steps after his bath.

Margarita is visiting from Italy, and has been painting colorful murals in various parts of the Ashram. Here she is with Vidya decorating the entrance to the hall, and also with Santosh, together painting a scene in his room.





Satsang with Babaji in the Ashram's hall.



Those who come to Bal Ashram not only gain an experience of being in a holy city in India, but also become part of a loving family who always remembers them.



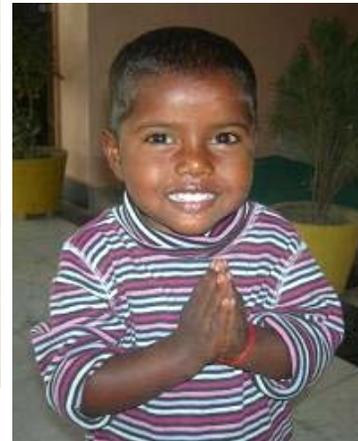
Above: Paul (from Long Island) with Indra, Tiwariji, Peter with Vidya, and Tejbal.



Above: Kamla with sleeping Vidya, Kiara (visiting from Italy) and one of the Ashram's dogs, Ganga.



Indra walking strong in his walker.



Namasté!



We can't wait to see you.

Babaji sends his love and blessings to you.

*Namasté,
Shivani*

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